

Application Serial No. 10/811,670
Reply to Final Office Action dated November 15, 2007

Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) The [[A]] rub-rail assembly of claim 21 wherein,
comprising:

~~a carrier having a back support, a first leg and a spaced second leg, wherein the first leg and the second leg extend from the back support to define a carrier cavity, and wherein the first leg and the second leg have terminating ends opposite the back support that define a gap that is part of the carrier cavity;~~

~~an insert having a main body, a first leg and a second leg, the first leg adapted to provide an interference fit with the first leg of the carrier and the second leg adapted to provide an interference fit with the second leg of the carrier when the insert is installed in a seat position with the carrier; and~~

~~the insert having a light receiving cavity or lumen extending lengthwise defined by side walls for receiving an elongated light source, the insert includes having a slit or opening along a length of the insert that extends from an outer surface of the insert and into the light receiving cavity or lumen to facilitate insertion and/or extraction of the elongated light source into/from the light receiving cavity or lumen, the slit or opening facing the carrier cavity when the insert is installed in the seat position, and wherein the side walls of the light receiving cavity or lumen are configured to retain the elongated light source relative to the insert even when the insert is separated from the carrier.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 1 wherein the slit or opening faces the carrier cavity when the insert is installed in the seat position wherein the interference fit of the first leg of the insert and the first leg of the carrier, and the interference fit

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~~of the second leg of the insert and the second leg of the carrier, provide a force that urges the slit or opening towards a closed position.~~

4. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 21 further comprising the elongated light source, wherein at least a majority of the elongated light source is situated inside the carrier cavity when the insert is installed in the seat position.

5. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 21 wherein the carrier includes one or more thickened regions ~~insert stops~~ that extend from the back support of the carrier into the carrier cavity, wherein at least one of the one or more thickened regions extend at least partially between the first leg and the second leg of the insert when the insert is installed in the seat position.

6. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 21 wherein the carrier includes a first insert stop and a second insert stop both extending from the back support of the carrier and into the carrier cavity, wherein the first insert stop and the second insert stop each include an angled surface.

7. (previously presented) The rub-rail assembly of claim 6 wherein at least part of the insert is adapted to engage the angled surface of the first insert stop and the angle surface of the second insert stop if a sufficiently large force is exerted on the insert toward the carrier.

8-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 21 wherein the maximum cross-sectional dimension of the light receiving cavity or lumen is less than 20 mm.

11. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 21 wherein the maximum

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cross-sectional dimension of the light receiving cavity or lumen is less than 10 mm.

12. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 21 A rub rail assembly, comprising:

~~a carrier having a back support, a first leg and a second leg, wherein the first leg and the second leg extend from the back support to form a cavity, the carrier further having a light receiving cavity or lumen defined by side walls for receiving an elongated light source; and~~

~~an insert having a main body, a first leg and a second leg, the first leg adapted to engage the first leg of the carrier and the second leg adapted to engage the second leg of the carrier when the insert is installed in a seat position with the carrier;~~

wherein the light receiving cavity or lumen is defined by side walls, and wherein the side walls of the light receiving cavity or lumen extend at least partially around the elongated light source and to retain the elongated light source in place relative to the insert carrier even when the insert is separated from the carrier.

13-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 21 wherein the An elongated bumper, comprising:

~~[[an]] elongated light source has a having a round or substantially round cross-sectional shape,;~~

~~an elongated bumper member having a light receiving cavity or lumen extending lengthwise for receiving the elongated light source; and wherein~~

the light receiving cavity or lumen is defined by a light receiving cavity or lumen wall that, in cross-section, has a round or substantially round shape that substantially matches the cross-sectional shape of the elongated light source for a span of that spans at least 180 degrees and is sized such so that the elongated light source fills or substantially fills the light receiving cavity or lumen as defined by the span of the light receiving cavity or lumen wall.

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16. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly ~~The elongated bumper~~ of claim 15, further comprising a slit or opening traversing along a length of the insert ~~elongated bumper member~~ and extending from an outer surface of the insert ~~elongated bumper member~~ and into the light receiving cavity or lumen to facilitate insertion and/or extraction of the elongated light source into/from the light receiving cavity or lumen.

17. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly ~~The elongated bumper~~ of claim 15, wherein the light receiving cavity or lumen has a maximum cross-sectional dimension of 10 mm or less.

18-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A rub-rail assembly, comprising:
a carrier having a back support, a first leg and a spaced second leg, wherein the first leg and the second leg extend out from the back support to form a carrier cavity;
an insert having a main body, a first leg and a second leg, the first leg adapted to provide an interference fit with the first leg of the carrier and the second leg adapted to provide an interference fit with the second leg of the carrier when the insert is installed in a seat position with the carrier; and

the insert having a light receiving cavity or lumen extending lengthwise for receiving an elongated light source, the insert further having an at least partially transparent material that extends from the light receiving cavity or lumen to an outer surface of the insert on a viewing side of the rub-rail assembly, and further having a substantially non-transparent material also on the viewing side of the rub-rail assembly, wherein the first leg and the second leg of the insert are formed from a substantially non-transparent material.

22. (canceled)

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23. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 21 wherein the at least partially transparent material and the substantially non-transparent material are structured provided such that light is only allowed to escape from the elongated light source on the viewing side of the rub-rail assembly along an arc with a center in the light receiving cavity or lumen that spans less than 180 degrees.

24. (previously presented) The rub-rail assembly of claim 21 wherein the elongated light source has a size and shape, and wherein the light receiving cavity or lumen is defined by a cavity or lumen wall that, in cross-section, has a shape and size to accommodate the size and shape of the elongated light source and so that the elongated light source fills or substantially fills the light receiving cavity or lumen as defined by the cavity or lumen wall.

25. (previously presented) The rub-rail assembly of claim 24 further comprising a slit or opening extending into the light receiving cavity or lumen to facilitate insertion and/or extraction of the elongated light source into/from the light receiving cavity or lumen.

26. (previously presented) A rub-rail assembly, comprising:
a carrier having a back support, a first leg with an inside surface and an outside surface, and a spaced second leg with an inside surface and an outside surface, wherein the first leg and the second leg extend out from the back support to form a carrier cavity therebetween, the inside surface of the first leg and the inside surface of the second leg defining at least part of the carrier cavity;

an insert having a main body, a first leg and a second leg, the first leg adapted to provide an interference fit with the inside surface of the first leg of the carrier, and the second leg adapted to provide an interference fit with the inside surface of the second leg of the carrier, with the main body engaging at least part of the outside surface of the first leg and at least part of the outside surface of the second leg of the carrier when the insert is installed in a seat position with

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the carrier; and

a light receiving cavity or lumen extending lengthwise for receiving an elongated light source, with an at least partially transparent material extending from the light receiving cavity or lumen to an outer surface on a viewing side of the rub-rail assembly.

27. (previously presented)The rub-rail assembly of claim 26 wherein the light receiving cavity or lumen is provided in the main body of the insert.

28. (previously presented)The rub-rail assembly of claim 26 wherein the light receiving cavity or lumen is provided in the carrier.

29. (previously presented)The rub-rail assembly of claim 26 wherein the light receiving cavity or lumen is provided between the carrier and the insert.

30. (previously presented)The rub-rail assembly of claim 26 wherein:
the first leg of the insert includes a first portion and a second portion, the first portion extending perpendicular or substantially perpendicular to the back support, and the second portion extending parallel or substantially parallel to the back support when the insert is installed in a seat position with the carrier; and

the second leg of the insert includes a first portion and a second portion, the first portion extending perpendicular or substantially perpendicular to the back support, and the second portion extending parallel or substantially parallel to the back support, when the insert is installed in a seat position with the carrier.

31. (previously presented)The rub-rail assembly of claim 30 wherein the carrier includes at least one thickened portion that extends from the back support of the carrier and between at least part of the first leg and at least part of the second leg of the insert.

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32. (canceled)